



"Carolyn E. Hayashi"
<CEHayashi@Lawcsilc.com>
10/16/2015 06:26 PM

To ""boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us""
<boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us>
cc 'Susan Fujii'
<fujii005@hawaii.rr.com>, 'Derek
and Karen Iha'
Subject BOE General Business Meeting 10/20
at 5:00 p.m.- Testimony on Committee
Action on budget restriction
implementation for Fiscal 2015-16

1 attachment



LACA_testimony.pdf

As president of the Leilehua Alumni and Community Association, I am submitting the attached testimony on behalf of LACA for the General Meeting on October 20th at 5:00 p.m. and will be present at the BOE meeting to answer any questions that evening.

Carolyn E. Hayashi

CHAR SAKAMOTO ISHII LUM & CHING
Attorneys at Law
A Law Corporation
(808) 522-5133

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LEILEHUA ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
841 Bishop Street, Suite 850, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Established in 2012

October 16, 2015

Principal, Leilehua High
School:
Jason Nakamoto

Via email: boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us

President:
Carolyn Hayashi
Class of 1979

Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Vice President:
Derek Iha
Class of 1979

Subject: Board of Education General Business Meeting
October 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
Report of Finance and Infrastructure Committee Report on
(4) Committee Action on Recommendation concerning
Department Of Education's operating Budget: budget
restriction implementation For Fiscal Year 2015-2016
GIA Leilehua Alumni Community Association

Secretary:
Susan Fujii
Class of 1966

Treasurer:
Jensen Kono
Class of 1977

Directors:
Donovan Dela Cruz
Class of 1991

Dear Chairman Mizumoto and members of the Board of Education:

Rene Mansho
Class of 1967

As president of Leilehua High School Alumni and Community Association ("LACA"), a 501(c)(3) organization, I am requesting on behalf of LACA that the Board does not approve a restriction on the \$250,000 GIA awarded to LACA this year.

Gerrie Nakamura
Class of 1967

Scholarship Committee:
Susan Fujii
Carolyn Uchiyama
Class of 1966

The purpose and mission of LACA is to provide needed funding and support for programs and activities of Leilehua High School and its feeder schools. The purpose of the purpose of the GIA is to help fund the development and implementation of a STEM program from K-12 grades in the Leilehua Complex and will be overseen by LACA. The Leilehua Complex does not currently have a STEM program.

Fundraising Committee:
Derek Iha

Fundraising Dinner
Planning Committee:
Rene Mansho, chair
renemansho@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 291-6151 (c/t)

Wahiawa and surrounding communities have struggled since the decline of sugar and pineapple industries, and the ebb and flow of military personnel has also caused economic instability for business. Loss of employment has contributed to high poverty levels. According to DOE statistics, over 50% of students in seven of the ten schools within the complex qualify for free or reduced cost lunches. In two elementary schools, the rates are over 80%.

Over the past ten years, growth in STEM jobs was over three times greater than that of non-STEM jobs in the United States. By 2017, STEM-related jobs across industries in Hawaii are estimated to increase to 63,000 jobs, or approximately 16,500 more workers in STEM jobs



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annually. For example, Leilehua Complex students will have the opportunity to apply for and seek positions with the National Security Administration's Hawaii branch located just outside of Whitmore Village and in the developing agricultural technology park known as the Whitmore Project – IF they can receive the education needed to be competitive.

There are many naysayers who believe that students from public schools, and particularly from Leilehua, do not have a chance to compete with students from private and mainland schools for those jobs.

With the GIA funds awarded to LACA and with LACA's oversight, we can start to pursue those opportunities and to prove the naysayers wrong. \$25,000 may not sound like much when it comes to a multi-million dollar budget, but it is a lot to LACA and a lot to our schools. A quarter of the school year has already gone by and another quarter of job skills development and educational opportunities has been lost.

Please help us to help our students by not restricting or delaying LACA's GIA funding.

Very truly yours,

Carolyn E. Hayashi
President
Leilehua Alumni and Community Association